



Linda S. Adams  
Secretary for  
Environmental  
Protection

# California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region

Karl E. Longley, ScD, P.E., Chair



Arnold  
Schwarzenegger  
Governor

## Sacramento Main Office

11020 Sun Center Drive #200, Rancho Cordova, California 95670-6114  
Phone (916) 464-3291 • FAX (916) 464-4645  
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley>

18 November 2008

Mr. Joseph McGahan  
Watershed Coordinator  
Westside San Joaquin Watershed Coalition  
P.O. Box 2157  
Los Banos, CA 93635

## **APPROVAL FOR MANAGEMENT PLAN – GENERAL APPROACH, AND FOCUSED WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR INGRAM AND HOSPITAL CREEKS**

On 23 October 2008, the Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition (Westside Coalition) submitted a Management Plan – a General Approach to describe monitoring and management practice activities that will take place throughout the Westside Coalition area, and a Focused Watershed Management Plan (Focused Plan) to describe intensified efforts in the high-priority watersheds of Ingram and Hospital Creeks. The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Regional Water Board) has reviewed both components of the Management Plan.

The Management Plan demonstrates the Westside Coalition's commitment to work with the Regional Water Board on the Central Valley's salinity problems through participation in the Central Valley Salinity Alternatives program. With this Management Plan, the Coalition is addressing their members' responsibilities to implement the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basin Plan Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for salt and boron, diazinon and chlorpyrifos, and dissolved oxygen.

In addition, your plan identifies actions to reduce pesticide discharges to tributaries to the San Joaquin River. When implemented, those actions should adequately address your members' diazinon and chlorpyrifos discharges to the San Joaquin River. Your plan and the associated actions meet the management plan requirements contained in the Basin Plan<sup>1</sup>.

With one modification, the Westside Management Plan also addresses the specific requirements of the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. This necessary modification is described below.

Within the Focused Plan, interim goals of 90% completeness were set for two parameters: 1) completed surveys returned from growers that were asked to provide survey information, and 2) contact, by Coalition representatives, with growers that have been identified as likely or potential contributors of specific high-priority constituents in the focused watersheds. It is understood that information on the actual percent completeness of these goals (and other performance goals) will be reported to the Regional Water Board according to the schedule

<sup>1</sup> Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins, IV-36.03, Item 8.

stated in the Focused Plan. The Focused Plan states that if the goals are not met, follow up actions will be determined in collaboration with Regional Water Board staff.

I want to make it clear that all growers in the Coalition are obligated to meet the conditions of the Coalition Group waiver. Since the Coalition will be focusing its initial efforts in two watersheds, all Coalition Group members in those watersheds must actively participate in addressing the identified water quality problems. Failure of individual participants to respond to requests by the Coalitions will put their status under the Coalition Group waiver in jeopardy. Given the obligations that growers assumed when joining the Coalition, the goals for completed surveys by growers in the focus watersheds should be set at 100%. Follow up actions described in the Focused Plan should occur if the 100% goal is not met.

In summary, the basic approach for source identification, outreach, and mitigation actions described in the Westside Coalition's Management Plan is appropriate. I am granting approval of the Management Plan with the understanding that the performance measures described above will be changed from 90% to 100% completeness for grower surveys and follow-up. With this approval, the Westside Coalition meets the Management Plan development requirements of the Coalition Group waiver<sup>2</sup> for those parameters and water bodies identified in Table 1 of the Westside Management Plan.

It is fully anticipated that the Westside Coalition will need to modify the Management Plan over time, as new monitoring data and performance measures inform us about the effectiveness of the actions, and as activities for Focused Plans in other water bodies need to be described. These modifications will need to be discussed and evaluated with Regional Water Board staff during the designated quarterly meetings and documented in Management Plan updates. Any updates will need to receive my approval as Executive Officer.

If there are any questions concerning these requirements, please contact John Swanson at 916-464-4849, or by email at [jswanson@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:jswanson@waterboards.ca.gov).



PAMELA C. CREEDON  
Executive Officer

---

<sup>2</sup> B.6. of Amended Attachment B, Order No. R5-2006-0053.